

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A price information mediating process for providing selling price information of at least one product supplier to at least one user: said process comprising the steps of:

10 a) receiving product search conditions from said user;

 b) retrieving a normal selling price of a desired product from storage means in accordance with said product search condition from said user, 15 said storage means including normal selling price information which have been pre-registered by said product supplier;

 c) sending said retrieved normal selling price to said user;

20 d) receiving a desired purchasing price presented by said user; and

 e) sending said desired purchasing price to said product supplier.

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2. A price information mediating process for providing selling price information of at least 30 one product supplier to at least one user: said process comprising the steps of:

 a) receiving product search conditions from said user;

35 b) retrieving a normal selling price of a desired product from storage means in accordance with said product search condition from said user, 35 said storage means including normal selling price

information and allowable discount selling price corresponding to said normal selling price which have been pre-registered by said product supplier;

5 c) sending said retrieved normal selling price to said user;

 d) receiving a desired purchasing price presented by said user; and

 e) sending said desired purchasing price to said product supplier if said desired purchase 10 price is greater than said allowable discount selling price.

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3. A price information mediating process for providing selling price information of at least one product supplier to at least one user: said process comprising the steps of:

- 20 a) receiving product search conditions from said user;
- b) retrieving a normal selling price of a desired product from first storage means in accordance with said product search condition from said user, said first storage means including normal selling price information which have been pre-registered by said product supplier;
- 25 c) sending said retrieved normal selling price to said user;
- d) receiving a desired purchasing price presented by said user;
- e) storing said desired purchasing price in second storage means;
- f) receiving a request for updating said 30 normal selling price stored in said first storage means; and
- g) reporting to said user in case where

said normal selling price takes a value less than said desired purchasing price stored in said second storage means as a result of said update request.

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4. A computer readable medium storing
10 program code for causing a computer to mediate price
information between at least one user and at least
one product supplier, said computer readable medium
comprising:

first program code means for receiving
product search conditions from said user;

15 second program code means for retrieving a
normal selling price of a desired product from
storage means in accordance with said product search
condition from said user, said storage means
including normal selling price information which
20 have been pre-registered by said product supplier;
third program code means for sending said
retrieved normal selling price to said user;
fourth program code means for receiving a
desired purchasing price presented by said user; and
25 fifth program code means for sending said
desired purchasing price to said product supplier.

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5. A computer readable medium storing
program code for causing a computer to mediate price
information between at least one user and at least
one product supplier, said computer readable medium
35 comprising:

first program code means for receiving
product search conditions from said user;

second program code means for retrieving a
normal selling price of a desired product from
storage means in accordance with said product search
condition from said user, said storage means
5 including normal selling price information and
allowable discount selling price corresponding to
said normal selling price which have been pre-
registered by said product supplier;
third program code means for sending said
10 retrieved normal selling price to said user;
fourth program code means for receiving a
desired purchasing price presented by said user; and
fifth program code means for sending said
desired purchasing price to said product supplier if
15 said desired purchase price is greater than said
allowable discount selling price.

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6. A computer readable medium storing
program code for causing a computer to mediate price
information between at least one user and at least
one product supplier, said computer readable medium
25 comprising:

first program code means for receiving
product search conditions from said user;
second program code means for retrieving a
normal selling price of a desired product from first
30 storage means in accordance with said product search
condition from said user, said first storage means
including normal selling price information which
have been pre-registered by said product supplier;
third program code means for sending said
35 retrieved normal selling price to said user;
fourth program code means for receiving a
desired purchasing price presented by said user;

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5 fifth program code means for storing said
desired purchasing price in second storage means;
 sixth program code means for receiving a
request for updating said normal selling price
stored in said first storage means; and
10 seventh program code means for reporting
to said user in case where said normal selling price
takes a value less than said desired purchasing
price stored in said second storage means as a
result of said update request.

15 7. A server for mediating price
information between at least one product supplier
and at least one user via a network, comprising:
 first receiving means for receiving
product search conditions from said user;
20 retrieving means for retrieving a normal
selling price of a desired product from storage
means in accordance part said product search
condition from said user, said storage means
including normal selling price information which
25 have been pre-registered by said product supplier;
 first sending means for sending said
retrieved normal selling price to said user;
 second receiving means for receiving a
desired purchasing price presented by said user; and
30 second sending means for sending said
desired purchasing price to said product supplier.

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8. The server as claimed in claim 7,
wherein said storage means also stores allowable

discount selling price corresponding to said normal selling price which have been pre-registered by said product supplier, said second sending means determines whether said desired purchasing price is
5 greater than said allowable discount selling price and sends said desired purchasing price to said product supplier when said second sending means determines that said desired purchasing price is greater than said allowable discount selling price.

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9. The server as claimed in claim 7,
15 further comprising:
third receiving means for receiving a request for updating said normal selling price stored in said storage means; and reporting means for reporting to said user
20 in case where said normal selling price takes a value less than said desired purchasing price stored in said storage means as a result of said update request.

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10. The server as claimed in claim 7,
further comprising:
30 fourth receiving means for receiving selling permission reporting information from the shop terminal; and third sending means for sending said selling permission reporting information to said
35 user terminal.

TOP SECRET - ATTACHE